

APPENDIX I
NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM
WILMINGTON BOULEVARD HISTORIC DISTRICT AMENDMENT

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

For NPS use only

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

received

date entered

See instructions in How to Complete National Register Forms
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

1. Name

historic

and/or common Wilmington Boulevard Historic District Amendment

2. Location

street & number

not for publication

city, town Wilmington

vicinity of

state Delaware

code 10

county New Castle

code 003

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> museum
<input type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> park
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational	<input type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government	<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> other: vacant

4. Owner of Property

name See Attachment

street & number

city, town

vicinity of

state

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. City/County Building

street & number 800 French Street

city, town Wilmington

state Delaware

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Delaware Cultural Resource Survey

has this property been determined eligible? yes ☒ no

date

federal ☒ state ☐ county ☐ local

depository for survey records Division of Historical and Cultural Affairs

city, town Dover

See Attachment

state Delaware

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Owners of Property

East Front Street:

209 Greek Orthodox Church Community, Inc.
808 N. Broom Street
Wilmington, Delaware 19806

211, Fakis Calliopi
213 1331 W. 8th Street
Wilmington, Delaware 19806

215, Helen Orlowski
217 Sophie Layton
711 S. Broom Street
Wilmington, Delaware 19805

219 Thomas Hatzis
510 Simon Road
Wilmington, Delaware 19803

221 Frank Jannuzzio et al.
1115 Bardell Drive
Sherwood Park
Wilmington, Delaware 19808

223 Roland F. Cohen
1717 Forest Dale Drive
Wilmington, Delaware 19803

225 William Parker
126 Landers Lane
New Castle, Delaware 19720

Walnut Street:

101 Allen B. King
P.O. Box 805
Wilmington, Delaware 19801

Delaware Department of Transportation
P.O. Box 778
Dover, Delaware 19901

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Historic American Building Survey - Mendenhall House
1941 Federal
Library of Congress

7. Description

Condition		Check one	Check one
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site
<input type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved date _____
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The City of Wilmington, as an applicant and recipient of a Community Development Block Grant, requested a determination of eligibility for listing on the National Register of Historic Places, of the archaeological resources of the portion of the block bordered by French, Second, Walnut, and Front Streets previously excluded from the Wilmington Boulevard Historic District. This District was determined to be eligible for the listing on the Register for its significant archaeological resources on February 8, 1980 at the request of the Federal Highway Administration. The present nomination is to amend the boundaries of this district to include the remainder of this block, since it is geographically and culturally a single unit. Of the properties under consideration, the architectural remains at 217-219, 221, and 223 East Front Street were determined to be eligible for listing on the Register on June 6, 1980, as requested by the Federal Railroad Administration. The Mendenhall House, 225 East Front Street, was placed on the National Register on September 7, 1970. Neither of these nominations included the adjacent archaeological resources.

The proposed extension includes the properties on which structures have already been demolished, denoted as Parcels 14, 15, 16, and 30 on the project map (209, 211, and 213 East Front Street, and 101 Walnut Street), and those on which structures are still standing, denoted as Parcels 17, 25, 26, 27, 28 and 29 (215, 217-219, 221, 223, and 225 East Front Street). These structures are deteriorating; the wings on the older structures are falling down, opening areas that were previously inaccessible to "pot-hunters" or to the archaeological survey team.

The data for this determination of eligibility were obtained as part of the location and identification survey conducted by Mid-Atlantic Archaeological Research, Inc., for the Delaware Department of Transportation Wilmington Boulevard Project. Because this area was an integral part of the development of the district, it was included in their surface reconnaissance and documentary research, but since it was outside of the highway project area, testing was minimal. However, based on the known features and on the archaeological integrity of adjacent blocks excavated by Mid-Atlantic Archaeological Research, Inc., and Soil Systems, Inc., this area has great archaeological potential, despite continued structural deterioration and the leveling of several structures. The location of intact and partially looted privies and cisterns behind and under these buildings demonstrates the truth of the earlier conclusion that rear yard areas are essentially intact except where deep cellar holes were excavated.

The historical development of these properties began in 1784, when Captain Thomas Mendenhall purchased 217-225 East Front Street. Here, Mendenhall resided and operated his flour merchandising business for over 35 years.

After Mendenhall's business failure in 1820, all his property was sold and converted to private residences, usually occupied by the owner but sometimes rented. Other structures were built during the first half of the nineteenth century, as the entire area became residential. In 1860, the first saloon was introduced on this block, and by 1880, every building had been converted to some commercial purpose, mainly directed at the traffic generated by the railroad station across the street. Upper floors continued to be occupied as apartments, sometimes by the owner-operators of the small restaurants, saloon, cigar stores, boarding houses, and so on, that came and went through the remainder of the nineteenth century and the first half of the twentieth. As the area deteriorated, more and more buildings fell vacant after World War II.

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Today the few remaining structures stand unused and in a deteriorated condition. The leveling of buildings for the construction of Wilmington Boulevard has opened up a great deal of space behind them, leaving these isolated buildings as the only reminder of Front Street's past.

8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
prehistoric	archeology-prehistoric	community planning	landscape architecture	religion
1400-1499	X archeology-historic	conservation	law	science
1500-1599	agriculture	economics	literature	sculpture
1600-1699	architecture	education	military	social/
1700-1799	art	engineering	music	humanitarian
1800-1899	commerce	exploration/settlement	philosophy	theater
1900-	communications	industry	politics: government	transportation
		invention		other (specify)

Specific dates 1730 - present

Builder/Architect

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The proposed extension exhibits many of the same significant developments of Wilmington's history as the remainder of the Wilmington Boulevard Historic district. It exemplifies the shift from a mercantile to an industrial settlement pattern, as set forth in the earlier nomination. Beginning with an upper middle class, sea captain's residence and mercantile establishment, property use changed with the increasing population and growing industry of the nineteenth century. Although the socio-economic status of its residents dropped, this remained a viable commercial area into the twentieth century. As part of the core of a major eastern city, it gradually deteriorated to slum conditions but escaped the mass destruction of urban renewal projects. Today, those structures still standing are in an advanced state of disrepair, but their yard areas remain substantially intact.

The unique significance of these properties centers around the Captain Thomas Mendenhall complex: 217-219, 221, 223, and 225 East Front Street. The buildings from 221 to 225 East Front Street are the longest standing structures in the District; the only structural changes have been the addition of insubstantial wings during the nineteenth century. These brick structures are the ones referred to in the earlier nomination as providing an important interpretive contrast to those on the west side of French Street:

the area between Market and Walnut marked the main part of the town throughout the eighteenth century, so that occupation is likely to have begun by mid-century. Residents (of French Street) were probably laborers and small craftsmen. Excavation of these areas could produce evidence of cultural patterning associated with lower class urban occupations of the eighteenth century. This would contrast with patterning associated with the brick structures along Front Street (outside the project limits), where collectors have opened a number of features which have produced significant evidence of socio-economic differentiation in material culture usage.

The deposits behind and under these buildings were well protected through time and thus should yield a reasonably complete record of late eighteenth century life styles and business activities. Pieces of crates with "Mendenhall" stenciled on them, and several identical ceramic vessels, that may have been broken in shipment and discarded at once, have been found in a privy sealed under the wing addition of 225 East Front Street, Mendenhall's own residence. These artifacts, linked to his commercial activity, suggest that it was not limited to flour.

Artifacts in other abandoned cisterns and privies throughout this area should document the lowering status of its residents, and the increasing commercialization of the structures, providing information on ordinary activities, foodways, and trade during the nineteenth century. Adding this to what has already been excavated elsewhere would greatly increase the sample of provenienced material (since other areas have

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been considerably more disturbed archaeologically than this one). Thus the range and importance of conclusions derived from the study of the District's archaeological resources could be broadened, and their validity strengthened.

9. Major Bibliographical References

1814 and 1845 City Directories of Wilmington, Delaware
Hoffecker, Carol E. Wilmington, Delaware: Portrait of an Industrial City, 1830-1890.
University of Virginia Press, 1974.
Scharf, J. Thomas. History of Delaware, 1609-1888. Philadelphia, 1888. Franklin's Atlas
Hopkins Atlas of Wilmington, 1876. Baist's Atlas of Wilmington, 1887. of Wilmington, 1936.

10. Geographical Data

Acres of nominated property 13.75

Quadrangle name Wilmington South

Quadrangle scale 7.5

UTM References

A

1	8
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4	5	2	9	8	0
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4	3	9	8	7	8	0
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Zone Easting Northing

B

1	8
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4	5	2	8	1	8
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4	3	9	8	4	9	0
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Zone Easting Northing

C

1	8
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4	5	2	2	2	0
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4	3	9	8	8	2	0
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D

1	8
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4	5	2	2	4	0
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4	3	9	8	8	6	0
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E

1	8
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4	5	2	4	3	0
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4	3	9	8	7	5	0
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F

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Verbal boundary description and justification

See Attachment

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	code	county	code
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state	code	county	code
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11. Form Prepared By

name/title Cara Wise, Archaeologist
Alice H. Guerrant, Archaeologist

January 24, 1980
January 12, 1980

organization Bureau of Archaeology and Historic Pres. date

street & number Old State House, The Green

telephone (302) 736-5685

city or town Dover, Delaware

state 19901

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

☐ national ☐ state ☒ local

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature

title Deputy Chief, Bureau of Archaeology and Historic Preservation date

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I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register

date

Keeper of the National Register

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

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Verbal Boundary Description:

French Street to Walnut Street - beginning at the NE quadrant of the French and Front Street intersection, proceed southeastwardly along the northern curb line of Front Street to the western curb of Walnut Street, then northeastwardly along this curb line to the southern curb of 2nd Street, then northwestwardly along this curb line to the eastern curb of French Street, then southwestwardly along the curb line to the point of origin.